

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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SUBJ: IRANIAN HANDLING OF AIRCRAFT SHOOT-DOWN

1. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 8, LT. GEN. SAMUEL WILSON, DIRECTOR DIA, AT MY REQUEST APPROACHED GENERAL MOGHADAM, J-2 OF SCS, ON HOW THE GOI WAS PLANNING TO HANDLE THE SHOOT-DOWN OF THE IRANIAN F-4 IN THE PDRY. GENERAL WILSON HURRIEDLY PASSED TO ME VIA THIRD PARTY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BASED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL MOGHADAM:

1. THE REASON THE IRANIAN FORCES HAVE NOT TAKEN ARMED ACTION TO DATE WITH RESPECT TO RECOVERY OF AIRCRAFT OR PILOT IS BECAUSE SULTAN QABUS OF OMAN SAID "NO" TO SUCH AN OPERATION.

2. IRAN WILL CONTINUE RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS (PRESUMABLY OVER OMANI TERRITORY) AND WILL ATTEMPT TO USE OTHER COUNTRIES

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AS INTERMEDIARIES TO PERSUADE SOUTH YEMEN TO RELEASE THE AIRCRAFT

AND PILOT. (ACCORDING TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT, SEPTTEL, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT ARE THE INTERMEDIARY COUNTRIES.)

3. IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE INTERMEDIARIES ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR EFFORTS, SULTAN QABUS HAS AGREED TO THE GOI'S INITIATING A NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST THE PDRY. THE SULTAN HAS ALSO AGREED THAT IF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS ARE FIRED UPON, THE IRANIANS MAY FIRE BACK.

2. FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE ACQUIRED FROM GENERAL WILSON WHO ARRIVES WASHINGTON EVENING DECEMBER 8. GEN. WILSON HANDLED THIS INQUIRY WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL AND FINESSE, AND WE BELIEVE, BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THAT FOREGOING IS ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY. NEVERTHELESS, RECOMMEND DETAILS BE CHECKED OUT WITH GENERAL WILSON.
HELM UNQTE ROSINBON

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